

Remarks

Applicants appreciate the recognition of patentable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants cancel claims 21, 26, 34 and 39-40. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14-16, 18-20, 23-25, 27-33 and 35-38 are pending in the present application.

Claims 11, 14-15 and 32 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Japanese Patent No. 6-35627 to Nishikawa in view of Japanese Patent No. 11-143151 to Nakahara et al. Claims 21, 34, and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,665,089 to Austin in view of Nishikawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,148,218 to Nakane et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to include limitations of previously pending claim 26 which was indicated to be allowable. Claim 11 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the action that claim 26 recited allowable subject matter. Allowance of claim 11 and the respective dependent claims 14-15, and 32 is respectfully requested.

The claims which depend from independent claim 11 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Independent claim 21 and the respective dependent claims thereof have been canceled.

All pending claims have been indicated by the Office to recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the application is in immediate condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

*Serial No. 10/016,317
Case No. 10016586-1
Amendment F*

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Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment F